

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6-10, 12, 14-16, 26, and 27 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 11, 13, and 17-25 have been canceled. Claims 26 and 27 have been added. Claims 2, 9, 10, and 16 have been withdrawn. No claims have been allowed.

Responsive to the Examiner's objections regarding Claims 15 and 20, Applicant has canceled Claim 20 and has amended Claim 15 as indicated to change "vent pressure said" to --vent pressure from said--.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3-8, 11-15, 17, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,250,271 to Ikuma et al. ("Ikuma et al. '271") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,474,281 to Walters ("Walters '281").

Responsive thereto, Applicant has rewritten Claim 6 in independent form to include all the limitations of canceled independent Claim 1 and intervening Claim 5, and has amended Claims 3, 7, and 8 to depend from new independent Claim 6. Applicant has also rewritten Claim 14 in independent form to include all the limitations of canceled independent Claim 11 and intervening Claim 13, and has amended Claims 12 and 15 to depend from new independent Claim 14.

New independent Claims 6 and 14 each call for an engine, including, *inter alia*, a camshaft rotatably supported within an engine housing at opposite ends of the camshaft within first and second bearings carried by the engine housing, an oil pump in communication with an oil sump to generate an oil pressure acting upon at least a portion of the camshaft to translate the camshaft from a first position to a second position, the camshaft further including a longitudinal bore therethrough, the bore fluidly communicating the first and second bearings with one another, the oil pump pumping oil from the first bearing to the second bearing through the bore.

Referring to Fig. 2 of the present application, the oil pump, including pump member 80, is operable to pump oil through longitudinal bore 84 of camshaft 50 from first camshaft bearing 54 to second camshaft bearing 52 to lubricate the bearings.

By contrast, Ikuma et al. '271 discloses an engine including camshaft 1, shown in Fig. 1, which includes a blind axial hole 21 which "has a closed upper end and an opened lower end" (col. 5, lines 42 and 43). Thus, the upper bearing of camshaft 1 is not lubricated by oil pumped through a longitudinal bore extending through camshaft 1 from a first bearing to a second

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bearing. Similarly, Walters '281 also discloses an engine including a camshaft, which camshaft does not include a longitudinal bore therethrough.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that new independent Claims 6 and 14, as well as the claims which depend therefrom, are not anticipated by, nor are obvious in view of, Ikuma et al. '271 or Walters '281, either alone or in combination.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that withdrawn Claims 2, 9, and 10, as well as withdrawn Claim 16, would also be in condition for allowance if amended to depend from new independent Claims 6 and 14, respectively, and authorizes the Examiner to make such amendment by Examiner's Amendment.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Official Action and reconsideration is requested. Specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance thereof.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby petitions therefore and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

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Should the Examiner have any further questions regarding any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 424-8000.

Respectfully submitted,



Adam F. Cox
Registration No. 46,644

Attorney for Applicants

AFC/mt

BAKER & DANIELS LLP
111 East Wayne Street, Suite 800
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Telephone: 260-424-8000
Facsimile: 260-460-1700

Enc. Return Postcard

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: December 19, 2006

ADAM F. COX, REG. NO. 46,644

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

December 19, 2006

Date